

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145927

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 145927

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN COTTON WORM PROBLEMS

REF: (A) CAIRO 4746 (B) CAIRO 4547 (C) STATE 143604

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AID/W HAS BEEN IN DAILY CONTACT WITH INDUSTRY RE AVAILABILITY OF REQUESTED INSECTICIDES. CURRENT SUPPLY SITUATION THESE PARTICULAR MATERIALS EXTREMELY TIGHT: (1) THERE IS NO U.S. INVENTORY OF THE REQUESTED PRODUCTS BECAUSE MOST ARE NOT USED HERE DOMESTICALLY. (2) THE INTERMEDIATE CHEMICAL INGREDIENTS REQUIRED FOR PRODUCTION OF THESE INSECTICIDES ARE ALSO NOT READILY AVAILABLE AND NORMALLY REQUIRE 6-8 MONTHS LEAD TIME TO PRODUCE. THE POTENTIAL SUPPLY PICTURE FOR ALTERNATIVE (BUT MORE TOXIC) TYPES OF INSECTICIDES IS SOMEWHAT BRIGHTER. FOLLOWING IS RUNDOWN OF CURRENT SUPPLY SITUATION.
END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 145927

2. WE HAVE TALKED WITH EXECUTIVES IN SHELL, AMERICAN

CYANAMID, DOW CHEMICAL AND VELSICOL AND HAVE CONVEYED TO THEM THE HIGH LEVEL U.S. FOREIGN POLICY INTEREST IN OBTAINING THESE PRODUCTS FOR GOE. ALL COMPANIES APPRECIATE USG CONTACT AND HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION. THESE COMPANIES HAVE DONE, AND ARE DOING, SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS WITH EGYPT AND ARE ANXIOUS TO HELP OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. UNFORTUNATELY,

THEIR DESIRE TO HELP IS THWARTED BY THE VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY, FOR ANY IMMEDIATE DELIVERY, OF THE LARGE QUANTITIES REQUESTED.

3. AMERICAN CYANAMID, THE BASIC PRODUCER OF CYOLANE AND CYTROLANE (A SIMILAR CHEMICAL) STATE THAT THEY HAVE CONTRACTED TO SUPPLY TO EGYPT 3000 METRIC TONS CYOLANE/CYTROLANE FOR THIS CROP YEAR. 1500 MT WAS SHIPPED DURING LAST FALL AND THIS SPRING; BALANCE 1500 MT WILL BE SHIPPED JULY 5 AND JULY 10. THEY FURTHER STATE THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE IN THIS EMERGENCY, THE VARIOUS INTERMEDIATE CHEMICAL INGREDIENTS FOR CYOLANE/CYTROLANE ARE NOT AVAILABLE AS SHELF ITEMS, AND AT LEAST 6 MONTHS LEAD TIME IS NECESSARY TO CONTRACT, SCHEDULE PRODUCTION AND OBTAIN THE BASIC ELEMENTS FOR THE INSECTICIDES. THEREFORE, THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL THIS YEAR.

4. RE DOW'S DURSBAN:

DURSBAN IN ITS TECHNICAL, CONCENTRATED FORM IS PRODUCED BY DOW CHEMICAL AT MIDLAND, MICHIGAN AND THEN SHIPPED TO ROTTERDAM WHERE IT IS FORMULATED INTO DURSBAN 40, (WHICH IS THE END-PRODUCT) PACKAGED AND TRANSSHIPPED TO EGYPT. DOW ROTTERDAM REPORTS DELIVERY STATUS OF EGYPTIAN DURSBAN 40.8 AS FOLLOWS: 210,000 GALLONS SHIPPED APRIL 1974; 7,895 SHIPPED JULY 1974; 55,000 GALLONS SHIPPED JULY 1, 1974. BALANCE OF ORDER 66,000 GALLONS WILL BE READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM ROTTERDAM ON JULY 12. WILL RESPOND CAIRO 4857 RE SHIPMENT BY AIR SEPARATELY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 145927

5. SHELL INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL COMPANY, LONDON, HAS SUPPLIED 1 MILLION LITERS OF A 20-PERCENT-ENDRIN-PLUS-20-PERCENT-BIDRIN FORMULATION FROM ITS LONDON PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR THIS CROP YEAR. SHELL WILL HAVE NO FURTHER PRODUCTION AVAILABLE UNTIL DECEMBER 1974. ALTHOUGH THIS FORMULATION COULD BE PRODUCED IN U.S., BASIC INGREDIENTS NOT AVAILABLE.

6. VELSICOL INC , WHICH ALSO PRODUCES ENDRIN (BUT NOT BIDRIN) UNDER SHELL LICENSE HAS NO AVAILABLE PRODUCT

7. HOWEVER, VELSICOL DOES HAVE 680 MT TECHNICAL PHOSVEL AVAILABLE IN U.S. (REF A, PARA 6). MOHAMMED ADHAM, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MIDDLE EAST OF VELSICOL, IS NOW IN CAIRO (AT HILTON HOTEL) NEGOTIATING SALE OF THIS TECHNICAL MATERIAL FOR FORMULATION INTO

FINISHED PRODUCT IN EGYPT. NORMAL FORMULATION IS 360 GRAMS OF TECHNICAL MATERIAL PER LITER OF FINISHED PRODUCT--WHICH WOULD THUS AMOUNT TO 2,725 MT (INCLUDING CONTAINERS). VELSICOL IN U.S. STILL UNCERTAIN ON AVAILABILITY IN EGYPT OF FACILITIES, EMULSIFIER, CONTAINERS, ETC. NECESSARY FOR LOCAL FORMULATION. HOWEVER, IF THE END-PRODUCT WERE FORMULATED IN U.S. RATHER THAN EGYPT, THIS WOULD REQUIRE SHIPPING 6 MILLION POUNDS OF FINISHED PRODUCT AS COMPARED TO 1.5 MILLION POUNDS OF TECHNICAL MATERIAL. AIR SHIPMENT FROM U.S. TO CAIRO BY COMMERCIAL AIRLINE WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY ONE DOLLAR U.S. PER POUND, AND THEREFORE, BECAUSE OF PRICE, COMBINATION OF AIR AND SURFACE SHIPMENT TO MEET SPRAYING REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE RECOMMENDED. IT WOULD REQUIRE ALMOST 70 PLANELOADS TO HANDLE THIS ENTIRE AMOUNT BY AIR;

8. THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVE INSECTICIDES (E.G., COMBINATION PARATHION/DDT) WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM US DOMESTIC MARKET IN LIMITED QUANTITIES. EFFEC-TIVENESS OF THESE ALTERNATIVES BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE TWO CONSULTANT ENTOMOLOGISTS. PRIOR THEIR DEPARTURE THEY WILL REVIEW POSSIBILITY OF TESTING ALTERNATIVE. IF SMALL QUANTITIES ARE NEEDED FOR TESTING PLEASE ADVISE AID/W.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 145927

9. IN ORDER TO HAVE CLEAR PICTURE OF EGYPTIAN NEEDS, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM U.S. EXPERTS CONFIRMATION ON TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF PESTICIDE EGYPTIANS CLAIM ARE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH SITUATION. ALSO NEED PROMPT RESPONSE RE VELSICOL'S PHOSVEL. SISCO

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